

## Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 /079 R

DRAFTED BY HA:FASIEVERTS:LIF  
APPROVED BY HA:FASIEVERTS  
NEA/PAB - MR. HORNBLow  
HA/ORM - MR. CARLIN  
-----128897 192331Z /61

O R 192156Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AF

SUBJECT: ATTEMPT TO LIBERATE AFGHAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A. KABUL 4950; B. GENEVA 9131; C. TEHRAN 5821;  
D. STATE 151823

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN FURTHER APPROACH TO ICRC AS OUT-  
LINED IN PARA NINE REF A.
  2. GENEVA AND LONDON SHOULD CONSULT URGENTLY WITH BRITISH  
TO TRY TO ARRANGE FURTHER JOINT APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT  
ASAP, IN ANY CASE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21. IF  
JOINT APPROACH CAN'T BE WORKED OUT IN TIME USG REP SHOULD  
GO AHEAD ON HIS OWN.
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3. SUGGEST AMBASSADOR OR DCM CONSIDER JOINING IN APPROACH  
TO HIGHER ICRC LEVEL TO FURTHER MAKE CLEAR OUR CONCERN  
ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.
4. RE UNHCR COMMENT REPORTED PARA FOUR REF B, THIS OF  
COURSE REFLECTS STANDARD UNHCR POSITION, UNDER ITS MANDATE,

THAT REFUGEES AREN'T REFUGEES UNTIL THEY ARE OUTSIDE THEIR OWN COUNTRY. WE DO NOT SEE THAT ICRC NEEDS TO BE GOVERNED BY THIS PRINCIPLE, ESPECIALLY WHERE THERE ARE OVERRIDING

HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS INVOLVED, AS APPEARS HERE TO BE THE CASE. USG REPS SHOULD STRESS TO ICRC THAT SENIOR AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR READINESS TO ALLOW THE DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO LEAVE IF THIS IS PROPOSED TO THEM BY A RESPECTED ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE ICRC. SITUATION DOES HAVE SOME ANALOGY, THEREFORE, TO CHILE, WHERE ICRC HELPED IN ARRANGING DEPARTURES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES.

5. WHILE WE WILL OF COURSE ACCEPT ICRC'S JUDGMENT AS TO LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVE TO SEND, WE SUGGEST USG REPS AGAIN STRESS DESIRABILITY OF HAVING VISIT BE CONDUCTED IN AS HIGH-LEVEL A MANNER AS POSSIBLE, WITH BOREL AUTHORIZED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH TOP LEVELS OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT.

6. WHILE WE CAN APPRECIATE BORSINGER'S CONCERN (PARA FIVE REF B) THAT AFGHANS MIGHT RELEASE ONLY SELECTED PRISONERS, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE TO PROCEED URGENTLY TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF AS MANY PRISONERS AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE HOPE THAT IF RELEASES GO WELL AND LEAD TO FAVORABLE PUBLICITY, THEN THE AFGHANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO RELEASE MORE. SOLVING PART OF THE PROBLEM IS BETTER THAN NOT  
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SOLVING ANY OF IT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FASIEVERTS:LIF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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